

HOUSE No. 1064

By Mr. O'Brien of Kingston, petition of Thomas J. O'Brien relative to establishing a board of early education and care. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after section 1E, the following new section:—
4 Section 1EE. There shall be established a board of early educa-
5 tion and care, which shall consist of the secretary of the executive
6 office of health and human services, the commissioner of the
7 department of education, the chancellor of higher education, one
8 representative of business or industry selected by the governor
9 with a demonstrated commitment to early education and care, one
10 representative of a labor union with a demonstrated commitment
11 to early education and care, a parent and consumer of early educa-
12 tion and care services, a provider of early education and care serv-
13 ices, one early education and care teacher and one additional
14 member selected by the governor. In making such selections, the
15 governor shall seek to appoint persons who are from geographi-
16 cally diverse regions of the commonwealth, who are familiar with
17 the differing interests, perspectives and needs of urban, rural and
18 suburban regions, and who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity
19 of the Commonwealth's young children. Each of the members
20 chosen must have a demonstrated commitment to early education.
21 No appointive member of said board shall be employed by or
22 receive regular compensation from the department of early educa-
23 tion and care. The governor shall appoint the chairperson of the

24 board. The board shall meet not fewer than ten times annually at
25 the call of the chairman.

26 The board of early education and care shall by a two-thirds vote
27 of all its members appoint a commissioner of early education and
28 care, in this chapter called the commissioner of early education
29 and care, and may in its discretion by majority vote of all its
30 members remove him. He shall be the secretary to the board and
31 its chief executive officer. The commissioner shall receive a salary
32 to be determined by the board of early education and care.

33 There shall be established an early education and care advisory
34 council, hereinafter referred to as the council, to advise the board
35 of early education and care. The council shall be composed of no
36 more than 15 members who shall be recommended by the com-
37 missioner and appointed by the board, and who shall have a
38 demonstrated commitment to early education and child care. In
39 making the appointments to the council, the board shall include at
40 least one representative from each of the following: a private non-
41 profit early education and care program; a for-profit early educa-
42 tion and care program; head start; a public school; and a
43 non-public school, and shall ensure authentic consultation and
44 representation by consumers and providers of early education and
45 care in the creation and administration of the new system.

1 SECTION 2. Within 6 months of the passage of this act, the
2 early education and care advisory council created pursuant to
3 section one of this act shall submit a plan to elevate, consolidate,
4 streamline and coordinate publicly funded early education and
5 care administration and functions. Said plan shall include strate-
6 gies, recommendations and methods to: (1) coordinate and maxi-
7 mize resources and public funding streams for early education and
8 care, including but not limited to funding administered by the
9 office of child care services and the department of education in
10 order to improve effectiveness, avoid duplication of effort, reduce
11 barriers to access and to provide flexible services that meet the
12 diverse needs of children and families; (2) ensure regulatory,
13 funding and administrative alignment, including, but not limited
14 to streamlining administrative paperwork and addressing inconsis-
15 tencies and conflicts in subsidy eligibility criteria, sliding-fee
16 scales, reimbursement rates, services, regulations, and policies

17 among publicly funded agencies; (3) strengthen consumer educa-
18 tion and accessibility to existing and new early education and care
19 resources; (4) create a single application form that can be used
20 across early education and care programs for all families seeking
21 financial assistance, yet maintain multiple points-of-entry to
22 ensure maximum access for families; (5) create an effective data
23 collection system to support the necessary functions of a consoli-
24 dated system of early education and care to enable accurate evalu-
25 ation of its impact on student learning; (6) establish statewide
26 school readiness assessment, goals/indicators for children, and
27 guidelines to ensure accountability and consistent operation across
28 communities; and (7) develop a workforce development system
29 designed to support the education, training and compensation of
30 the early education and care workforce. The advisory council shall
31 submit the plan together with any drafts of legislation necessary to
32 carry such recommendations into effect, by filing the same with
33 the board of early education and care, the governor, the secretary
34 for administration and finance, and the house and senate commit-
35 tees on ways and means, the clerks of the Senate and House of
36 Representatives, and the joint committee on education, arts and
37 humanities.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1E of chapter 15 of the Massachusetts
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby
3 amended by inserting after the word “education,” in line 4, the
4 following new phrase: “the commissioner of early education and
5 care” and is further amended by striking the word “five” in line 8
6 and inserting in its place thereof the word “four”.

1 SECTION 4. Section 1G of chapter 15 of the Massachusetts
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby
3 amended by striking in line two the phrase “early childhood edu-
4 cation” and is further amended by striking paragraph seven, lines
5 thirty-six through thirty-eight inclusive.

1 SECTION 5. Section 4 of chapter 15A of the Massachusetts
2 General Laws, as most recently amended, is hereby amended by
3 striking the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:— The board of higher education, hereinafter referred

5 to as the board, shall be composed of 11 voting members, con-
6 sisting of the commissioner of education, ex officio, the commis-
7 sioner of early education and care, ex officio, and 6 members
8 appointed by the governor reflecting regional geographic repre-
9 sentation, and 3 members chosen to represent public institutions
10 of higher education.